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Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

30th May, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

There was no undue incidence of serious infectious disease during the year and the health of the District remained satisfactory.

It is regretted that I have not been in a position to include in the Report all particulars asked for by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in connection with the District's water supplies.

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Breeds, for his co-operation and help during the year and for his assistance in preparing this Report, particularly in respect to the Sanitary Statistics for which he is responsible, I am also indebted to my clerk Miss L. Davidge for her efficient services.

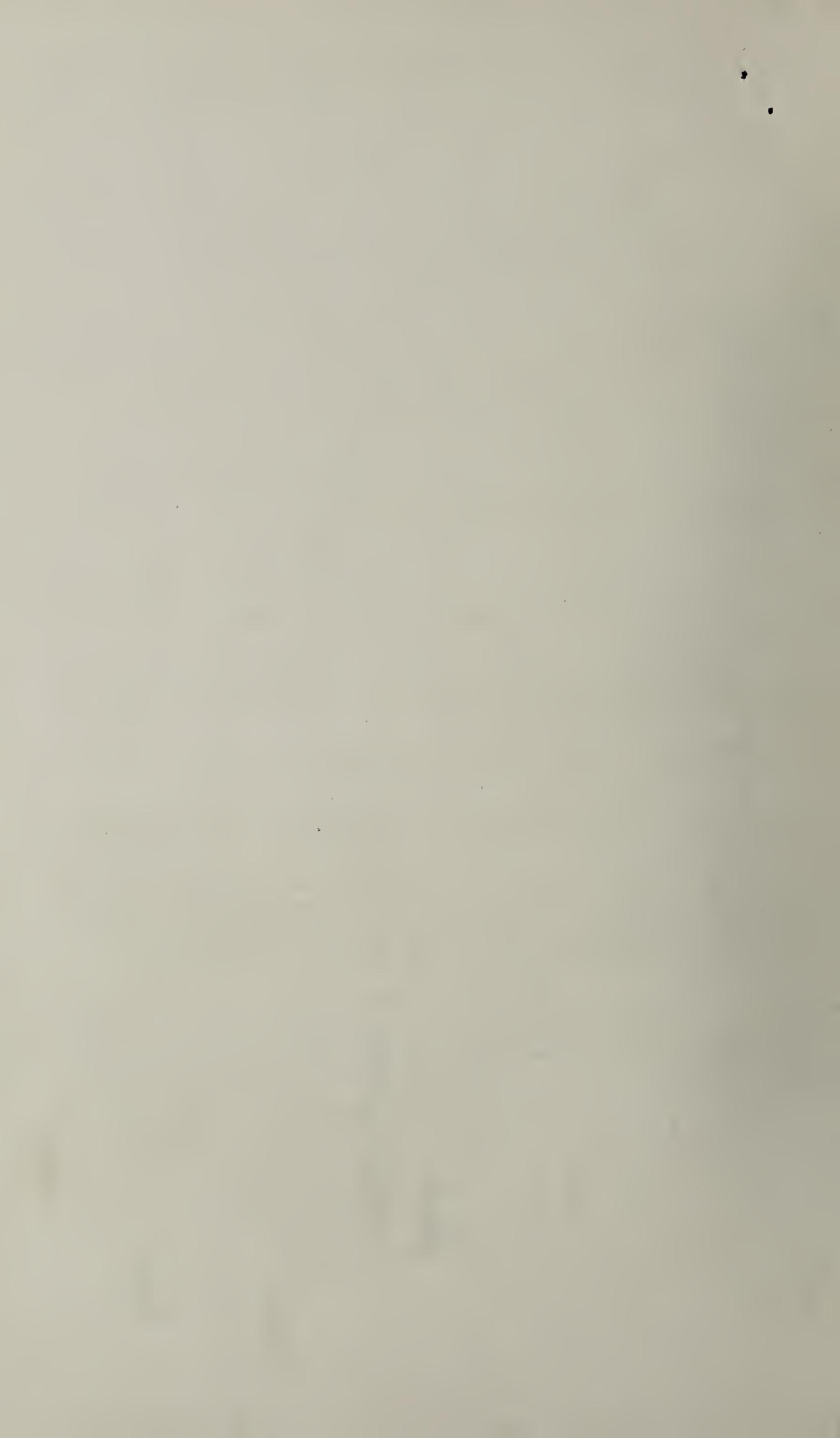
Finally, may I thank you, Gentlemen, for your Courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be.

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health

John E Pearson.



SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1951.

A. Area - 42,000 acres.
Rateable value - £40,886.
Production of a penny rate - £157. 1. 1.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 10,120

LIVE BIRTHS.

Comparative figures for
(a) North Dorset (b) England & Wales.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
Total	82	77	Rate per 1,000
Legitimate	76	74	} resident pop:
Illegitimate	6	3	} = 15.7 (18.5)

15.7 15.5

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	1	3	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 0.4	0.4	0.36
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DEATHS.

Total	50	56	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: .. = 10.5 (8.3)	13.1	12.5
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Deaths in infants under one year.	2	3	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 31.5 35.0 =	35.0	29.6
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Deaths from Tuberculosis - 1

Deaths from maternal causes - 0

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, continued to be provided by the County Council.

The Laboratory Services, provided by the Salisbury and West Dorset Group Management Committee, have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

W.E. Breeds, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., C.S.I.B., - Sanitary Inspector.
Lt.Col. T. Sealy Green, M.R.C.V.S. (Part-time for meat inspection only).

Clerical staff - one clerk (full-time).

2. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) Quantity. No serious shortages of water came to my notice during the year under review. The Rural District Council were in a position to supply the Shaftesbury Borough Council with 874,000 gallons during the year.

(b) Quality. The bacteriological and chemical quality of all the principal supplies remained satisfactory during the year. These supplies are chlorinated. The only supplies which remained consistently unsatisfactory were the Motcombe supply from Colefield springs and the Bourton supply. The latter supply is still used in an unchlorinated condition.

New works carried out during the year. The new reservoir at Bowden Hill was completed as was the laying of a new main from Stubhampton to the top of Iwerne Hill.

New connections. No information is available to me as to what new connections were provided during the year.

Distribution. No information is available with regard to the number of houses (and population) in each parish provided with a mains supply of water, or by outside standpipes, well or spring supplies.

Bacteriological examination of water supplies. The following table gives particulars of the number of samples of water taken (before chlorination) for bacteriological examination, and the results obtained shown in accordance with Ministry of Health classification:-

<u>Source of sample.</u>	<u>No. taken.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Melbury Abbas	8	3 Highly satisfactory 4 Satisfactory 1 Suspect.
Reservoir for Gillingham at More.	13	5 Highly satisfactory 3 Satisfactory
Boyne Hollow	11	4 Highly satisfactory 6 Satisfactory 1 Unsatisfactory.
Motcombe	13	2 Highly satisfactory 2 Suspicious 1 Unsatisfactory 8 Satisfactory.
Fonthill Magna Private Supply	9	4 Satisfactory 3 Unsatisfactory 2 Highly satisfactory.
Other supplies	8	6 Satisfactory 2 Suspicious.

In addition 5 samples were submitted for chemical analysis.

Stubhampton Borehole Supply. The steps which would require to be taken to obtain a safe temporary supply from this borehole were determined during the course of the year. For financial reasons the suggestion to take such a supply was abandoned, at least for the time being.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new sewerage works were undertaken during the year with the exception of the provision of small installations of septic tanks and filters to new council housing estates.

Iwerne Minster Sewage Works. Excessive infiltration of sub-soil water into the sewers during the very rainy season experienced during the year put these works completely out of action. A decision will be required at an early date with regard to the work to be undertaken to remedy the existing defects.

Post-war Sewerage Schemes. No material progress was made during the year toward the implementation of the Council's programme of parish sewerage schemes. During the preparation of schemes for submission to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government, preliminary surveys were completed in the parishes of Kingston Magna and Buckhorn Weston, and the survey in connection with Bourton was proceeding at the end of the year.

In so far as the provision of further Council houses in Gillingham appears to be dependent upon the provision of adequate sewerage facilities in that parish, it is probable that the sewerage scheme for parts of the parish of Gillingham will be commenced during the present year.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse and Salvage. The service for the collection of house refuse and salvage has remained the same as in the preceding years. A weekly collection is made in Gillingham and a monthly collection throughout the remainder of the district.

The amount of salvage collected during the year was as follows:-

	t.	c.	q.	£.	s.	d.
Mixed paper	65.	17.	0.	913.	17.	8.
Books	5.	15.	2.	103.	10.	5.
Newspapers	4.	4.	3.	100.	15.	9.
Rags	2.	13.	1.	93.	10.	2.
Bagging	2.	15.	1.	36.	10.	3.
Heavy scrap	14.	6.	3.	35.	5.	0.
Carpet		10.	0.	5.	7.	11.
String		8.	0.	3.	1.	0.
Bones		9.	0.	2.	11.	9.
	<u>96.</u>	<u>19.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>£1293.</u>	<u>9.</u>	<u>11.</u>

(b) Cesspool Emptying. No cesspool emptying is undertaken by the Council.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Some finality was reached during the year as a result of a High Court action against the Tiverton Minster bacon factory with regard to the pollution of the stream (known as the Chalk) running through the parish, by untreated effluent from the bacon factory, as a result of which the nuisance has been abated and is not likely to recur. A Ministry of Local Government & Planning Inquiry was held in connection with this firm's application under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act 1937 to discharge their drainage into the Council's sewer. The Minister's decision with regard to the application had not been made known by the end of the year.

There is evidence of stream pollution in most parishes, and the pollution of the river from the factory effluents and crude sewage of Gillingham continues as before.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	18
No. of defects found	3
No. of notices served	Nil
No. of notices complied with	Nil

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	No. of premises on register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	15	5	2
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authority	34	16	-
Total -	<u>49</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>2</u>

	No. of cases in which defects were Found.	Remedied.
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Want of cleanliness	1	-
Sanitary Conveniences -		
Unsuitable or defective	2	2
Total -	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
No. of outworkers = 72.		

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is no swimming bath to which the public have access in the district.

10. MOVABLE DWELLINGS & CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites licensed in the district. Licences in connection with the occupation of four movable dwellings were granted during the year.

Conditions attached to licences granted in connection with camping sites and the use of movable dwellings have been prepared and adopted by the Council, which will provide for uniformity in the granting of licences, and which will ensure a satisfactory standard of sanitation.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Disinfestation of three houses infested with fleas was carried out during the year. D.D.T. solution was the method employed.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities now cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District. An increase in the staff and activities of this Committee is proposed at the present time.

79 firms and business premises in this district have entered into or renewed contracts with the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee. Approximately 135 private premises received treatment during the year. The majority of farms have not been inspected for the presence of rats and mice. Until there is a complete system of block control to ensure that all premises have been covered, it is not anticipated that there will be any appreciable improvement. It is hoped that the proposed increase in staff and more adequate co-operation between the Joint Committee and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will secure this improvement.

13. RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

No premises in the district are registered or licensed under this Act.

14. SCHOOLS SANITATION.

Inspections of school canteens were carried out during the year and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

15. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948.

No action was required to be taken during the year under Section 47 of this Act with regard to the removal of persons in need of care and attention and living in insanitary conditions.

16. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

(1) (a)	No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	189
(b)	No. of inspections made	258
(2) (a)	No. of informal notices served	35
(b)	No. of informal notices complied with	27
(c)	No. of statutory notices served	8
(d)	No. of statutory notices complied with	8

(3) (1) No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	14
(2) Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses -	
(a) Demolition Orders made	1
(b) Undertakings accepted for -	
(i) Closure	Nil
(ii) Re-conditioning	6

(4) Overcrowding.

(a) No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to Local Authority	Nil
(b) No. of cases of overcrowding abated	Nil
(c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
Total number of houses in the district	3170

Rural Housing Survey.

Classification.	No. of inspections during 1951		No. of inspections before 1951	
	Detailed	Prelim.	Prelim.	Detailed.
Cat. 1. Satisfactory	1		216	3
2. Requiring minor repairs	8		501	14
3. Requiring minor repairs, alterations or improvement	17		629	57
4. Appropriate for reconditioning	16		369	85
5. Unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost	23		398	98

Requisitioned premises etc.

35 houses were held under requisition at the end of the year. 7 houses on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made, were being occupied under licence at the end of the year.

(5) Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	Temporary Prefab.	Swedish Timber.	Traditional Type.	Other.
(a) During 1951	-	-	63	-
(b) Post-war	-	8	193	44

Total No. of families re-housed during 1951 78

Housing Act 1949 - Improvement Grants.

No application for an Improvement Grant under this Act was received during the year.

I see little prospect of the facilities offered by this Act having any material effect on present housing conditions. Any work in connection with which a Grant is given has to be carried out under the general 'licensing ceiling' of the local authority in respect to repair and other similar work. For this reason, even though a local authority may be anxious to publicize the availability of these grants and encourage the 'improvement' of sub-standard property within its district, it is realized that to do so would be totally impracticable if, at the same time, it is not possible to issue the necessary licences within the limited 'licensing ceiling'.

Furthermore, where improvements are contemplated in property already requiring extensive repair work (and this applies to a considerable proportion of the property where 'improvements' are desirable) the improvement of such dwellings becomes economically impossible by reason of limitations imposed by the Rent Restriction Acts referred to below.

During the year 12 recommendations for the granting of priority on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council house, were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the conditions under which 25 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

Comments.

63 new Council houses were completed and 78 families re-housed during the year compared with 86 and 103 respectively during the preceding year. The 63 new Council houses include a group of bungalows specially provided for the use of aged persons at Fontmell Magna.

At the end of the year there were 180 applicants for Council houses, of which 138 were resident within the district. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 325 of which 252 were resident in the district.

General Remarks.

The provision of new houses alone cannot be expected to solve the present housing problem. Indeed, the present indications are that an increasing number of applicants are finding that they cannot afford to pay the rents now charged, and some authorities are seriously considering whether, with their present resources, they can afford financially to continue providing new houses to the extent they have done in the past.

The concurrent repair, reconditioning and 'improvement' of existing older houses is as equally necessary as the provision of new houses. It may be argued that the existing Housing Law gives a local housing authority full power to carry out their duties in this direction. Even if this may be so, an authority fully conscious of its responsibilities with regard to sub-standard property, is understandably reluctant to take action when it is clearly apparent that even the most benevolent landlord finds it economically impossible to maintain his existing property in a reasonable state of repair because of the present limitations imposed by the Rent Restriction Acts.

A modification of these Acts in favour of the landlord who is prepared to keep his property in a fit condition is urgently called for if many people, now living in unfit property and who have neither the means nor the desire to live in new Council houses, are to live under reasonable conditions.

17. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

(a) Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949
by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk
(Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949

3

(b) No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the
Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and
Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949

1

(c) No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under
regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949

3

(d) No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation
8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949

2

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year (by arrangement with the Dorset County Council) -

Tuberculin Tested _____ 42
Accredited _____ 8
Pasteurised _____ 197

Tuberculous infection of the milk supply from two farms was detected by routine milk sampling during the year. As a result informal action was taken under Regulation 20 to ensure that the milk from these farms was not used for human consumption until it had been heat treated, and until the milk had been shown subsequently to be free of infection.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	55
No. of such premises which are restaurant kitchens	4
hotel kitchens	5
food factories	5
No. of premises subject to Section 13 inspected during year	30
No. inspected being	
restaurant kitchens	3
hotel kitchens	—
food factories	5
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	28
No. of such premises registered in respect to -	
(a) Ice-cream	18
(b) Sausages & prepared meats	10
No. of such premises inspected during the year	20
No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylone Blue test	4 (In Grade 1)

It will be noted that little more than half of the premises subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1936 (i.e. rooms used for the preparation etc., of food for sale) were inspected during the year. This is unsatisfactory in so far as it is considered that such premises should be inspected at least twice each year.

Meat Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses. The attention of the Council was drawn during the early part of the year to the fact that 100% inspection of carcases slaughtered at the bacon factories was not being carried out by the Council's Meat Inspector, but that his complete inspections were, for the most part, limited to those carcases or parts of carcases found to be diseased, by experienced employees (though not qualified Meat Inspectors) working in the factories. I had to advise the Council that so long as the Council accepted the responsibility for the meat inspection in these factories, additional inspection was, in my opinion, advisable.

Result of Inspection.

Carcasses inspected and condemned.

	Pigs.
Number killed	67,319
Number inspected	26,854

All disease except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcase condemned	14
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned	—

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcase condemned	272
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned	5,589
Percentage of number slaughtered affected with tuberculosis	8.9

(b) Butchers and other shops.

Quantities condemned:- Imported Beef 138½ lbs.

Other Foods. Quantities condemned:-

Imported turkeys	102 lbs.	Sugar	13 lbs.
Margarine	1	Lard	2
Cheese	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tinned Ham	1017
Tinned veal & ham loaf	108	Tinned veal	89
Tinned corned beef	18	Tinned milk	48
Tinned luncheon meat	8	Tinned beans	8
Tinned soup	6	Tinned apple	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned brawn	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tinned pork butts	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned creme de foie	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	Tinned Peas	2
Tinned spaghetti	2	Tinned bacon	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned beetroot	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	Tinned beef	2 $\frac{3}{4}$

TOTAL = 1463 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. = 13 cwts. 7 lbs. 4 ozs.

18. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out	10
No. of disinfections carried out	10

19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1325
Total No. of informal notices served	67
Total No. of informal notices complied with	58
Total No. of statutory notices served	17
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	8
No. of prosecutions	1

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

Incidence -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Measles	166
Scarlet fever	15
Whooping cough	25
Dysentery	62
Poliomyelitis	1
Erysipelas	1
Pneumonia	1

There was an increase in incidence of measles during the year. An outbreak of dysentery in a residential school in the district wholly accounted for the increased incidence of dysentery.

Tuberculosis.

<u>New Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
6	1
1	-

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.